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How the law applies to me if...
I carry a firearms for wilderness
protection

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Canadian
Firearms
Centre



Centre
canadien des
armes à feu

How the Law Applies to Me if...

I CARRY A FIREARM FOR WILDERNESS PROTECTION

The *Firearms Act* brings about changes that affect firearms owners and users.

This information is important for you to know if you own or carry a firearm and are involved in the following types of activities:

- trapping;
- field work and exploration for mining, petroleum or forestry; or,
- piloting an aircraft in wilderness areas (**NOTE:** Standard provisions in the *Aeronautics Act* that apply do not change);
- guiding, including bear-baiting;
- predator control.

Under the *Firearms Act*, there are licences for individuals and businesses.

Individuals must apply for a licence by January 1, 2001. All firearms must be registered by January 1, 2003. A valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) will serve as a licence until it expires.

Businesses owning firearms *may* be required to obtain the firearms business licence (see p.2).

Flare guns are not affected by the *Firearms Act*.

FIREARMS LICENCES

There are two types of licences available to individuals, both of which must be renewed every five years.

- The first type is the “**possession-only**” licence (**Form JUS 669**). It will permit you to possess the firearms you already own and borrow firearms of the same class. This licence will cost \$10 if you apply for it before December 1, 1999. The fee will rise on a sliding scale to a maximum of \$60 on September 1, 2000.

Although the Canadian Firearms Safety Course is recommended, you are not required to take it to get this licence.

- The second type is the “**possession and acquisition licence**” (**Form JUS 670**). This licence will allow you to buy firearms or receive them as gifts, inheritances, or in trade. This type of licence will cost \$60 for non-restricted firearms or \$80 for any combination of firearms that includes restricted or prohibited firearms.

You will be required to pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course test in order to get this type of licence.

Both types of firearm licences will identify which of the three classes of firearms you are permitted to have:

- **Non-Restricted** (such as rifles and shotguns);
- **Restricted** (primarily handguns); and/or,
- **Prohibited*** (including automatic and converted automatic firearms, handguns with a barrel length of 105 mm or less, 25 or 32 calibre handguns, and other firearms prohibited by regulation).

* **NOTE:** To find out if you are eligible to own prohibited firearms call 1 800 731-4000 and ask for the "I Own a Grandfathered Prohibited Firearm" fact sheet.

Firearms Licences for Businesses (Form JUS 672)

If your firearms are owned by your business or the company that employs you, the business may require a firearms business licence. If the use of firearms is related only indirectly to your business activities, i.e., for occasional control of wildlife, and these firearms are registered to an individual rather than a business, a firearms business licence is not required.

Some factors that may affect whether you need or want a firearms business licence include:

- the number of firearms you keep for business purposes;
- whether they are considered to be personal or business firearms;
- whether the firearms were purchased through your business, or with a business FAC;
- the number of people who have an ownership interest in these firearms, or would be responsible for their use in the business;
- how often the firearms are likely to be used for business purposes;

- whether the firearms are used strictly for business purposes, rather than for personal or recreational activities;
- the number of employees who have access to the firearms;
- whether the business insurance policy will provide coverage if there is an accident involving a firearm registered to an individual;
- whether the firearms will be stored on the business premises.

You have until January 1, 2001 to get a business licence. The fee for the licence is \$50 for one year. However if your business will buy, sell, trade, export or import firearms, a new licence will be required immediately to do so.

If you are unclear if you need a business licence, contact your provincial or territorial CFO.

Employees

Employees of a licensed firearms business who handle firearms in the course of their work must have a valid FAC or a possession and acquisition licence for restricted firearms. This licence cost \$80 for each employee and is renewable every five years.

You may lend personally owned firearms to employees who have either a licence for that class of firearm or a valid FAC.

Employees do not need a licence if they only use the firearms under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed individual.

Employees using their own firearms in the course of their work must follow the licensing requirements for individuals.

REGISTRATION (Form JUS 675)

The *Firearms Act* requires you to register all of your firearms, including long guns (rifles and shotguns). You must have a valid firearms licence (or FAC), or other valid document that will be treated as a business licence, to register. You may apply for your licence at the same time as you register your firearms.

Registration began on December 1, 1998. You have until January 1, 2003 to register all the rifles and shotguns that you had when the law came into effect.

You only have to register a firearm once. A registration certificate will be issued for **each** firearm that you own. It is valid for as long as you own the firearm, unless you make changes to it that would alter its class (e.g. from restricted to prohibited). If you **lend** your firearm to another person, you must also lend the registration certificate.

For each firearm that you acquire as an individual after December 1, 1998, it will cost you \$25 to register it in your own name.

If you own restricted or grandfathered prohibited firearms you should already have firearm registration certificates for them (as required under the old firearms law). You must confirm that the registration information is complete and up-to-date. (Forms are available at the Post Office or by calling 1 800 731-4000. (**Form JUS 667**) Afterward, you will be issued new registration certificates free of charge.

REGISTRATION FEES

You only pay once to register a firearm.

There are no registration fees for firearms registered to a business.

If you register the long guns you owned before the law came into effect in the first year following implementation (December 1, 1998 to November 30, 1999) it will cost you a flat fee of \$10 for all of the firearms that you register at the same time.

This fee will rise to a flat fee of \$14 (December 1, 1999 to August 30, 2000), and to a flat fee of \$18 (on or after September 1, 2000).

CARRYING HANDGUNS

If you have a valid carry permit that allows you to carry a handgun for the protection of your life or of other individuals from wildlife, you may continue to do so. However, when your current permit to carry expires, you must apply for an authorization to carry. If it does not expire before December 1, 2000, it still must be replaced by this date.

The authorization to carry will come from your provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) and will specify the area for which the authorization is valid.

Each province or territory will likely have additional qualification standards and requirements, such as a training course, when determining eligibility for an authorization.

The fee for an authorization to carry is \$40 for one year or less and \$80 for a period of more than one year.

For information on contacting your Chief Firearms Officer please call 1 800 731-4000.

If you transport commercial shipments of firearms, please call the number above and request the special bulletin for carriers.

SAFE TRANSPORTATION

You are required to safely transport your firearms and those that you are shipping.

For more information about safe transportation requirements, call 1 800 731-4000 and request the safe transportation pamphlet.

COMING INTO FORCE

The *Firearms Act* is being phased in from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 2003.

INFORMATION

For more information, or to order a copy of the *Firearms Act*, its regulations, application forms and other CFC publications, contact us at:

1 800 731-4000 (Toll Free)
Web site: www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca
e-mail: canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca

This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.

Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply.

Le présent feuillet d'information est également disponible en français.



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